

Ser. No. 10/825,255

Remarks

Claims 1-17 and 22-24 were pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 12-17, and 22-24 were rejected. Claims 18-21 were withdrawn. No claims were merely objected to and claims 8-11 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 18-21 are canceled, claims 1 and 12 are amended, and no claims are added. No new matter is presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8-11.

Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the courtesy of a telephonic interview between the undersigned and the examiner on March 7, 2006. The propriety of the Lombard/Burge and Lombard/Burge/Naudet rejections were discussed.

The undersigned submitted that there was no indication that one of ordinary skill in the art would select the primitive configuration of Lombard as a starting point. Furthermore, there is no indication that one of ordinary skill in the art, even if presented with Lombard, would find a particular fault therewith for which the other references would suggest the cure.

The undersigned questioned the asserted Burge motivation of "to reduce radial strain and bending stress". In particular, the undersigned submitted that even if valid, this motivation would conflict with the increase in longitudinal force specified in claims 12-17. In particular, Burge would appear to teach sufficient rigidity to avoid causing such an increase.

The undersigned further submitted that given the configuration of Lombard with a rearwardly-angled first disk, there is no indication Lombard would, even if scaled, have the claimed precompression force of claim 14. The examiner disagreed with the foregoing.

The undersigned proposed adding at least a dependent claim to identify the shaft freely extending/passing through the disk inner apertures as had been used to distinguish a similar Lombard reference in copending application 10/825,256. The examiner agreed that this would distinguish the application of Lombard.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Ser. No. 10/825,255

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 12, 13, 15-17, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lombard (US2579745) in view of Burge (US6267553). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Although the rejection is believed improper for the reasons noted above and in the prior amendment, the rejection is believed moot in view of the foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 12 to identify the shaft as freely extending through the disk apertures. Lombard, alone or in combination, does not suggest a configuration.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lombard in view of Burge and further in view of Naudet (US4844694). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

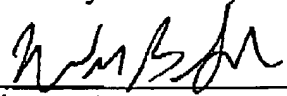
The rejection is believed overcome and moot for the same reasons noted above.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lombard in view of Burge and further in view of the engineering expedient of modifying the precompression force "based on the specific size of the rotor stack..." Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The rejection is believed overcome and moot for the same reasons noted above.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-17 and 22-24 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
William B. Slate
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No.: 37,238
Telephone: 203-777-6628
Telefax: 203-865-0297
Date: March 9, 2006

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 9th day of March, 2006 to the USPTO, at
Fax No. 1-877-273-8300.


Antoinette Sullo